

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FACT SHEET

MISSION:

The all-volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary provides assistance in the performance of all Coast Guard duties, roles, missions and operations authorized by law. The main focus of the Auxiliary is on public safe boating education, private and commercial vessel safety checks, marine safety and environmental protection. The only exclusions to Auxiliary participation are direct combat and law enforcement duties. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is under the Department of Homeland Security, and is subject to the administrative guidance of the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

OVERVIEW:

The Auxiliary is specifically declared by statute as being a non-military component of the Coast Guard. It is made up of uniformed volunteers who conduct operations, boater education and administrative missions. Unlike many other regions, weather and a huge boating public keep the Auxiliary busy conducting year-round operations and teaching boating safety programs.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary elected and staff officers serve as program managers for the administration, training, qualification and records management of its respective flotilla members. The Auxiliary plays an important role in rendering services to the active duty Coast Guard. Streamlining of the active duty Coast Guard has increased the demand for Auxiliary augmentation and participation.

Additionally, the added responsibilities and missions that are incumbent upon the Coast Guard after its move to the Department of Homeland Security have greatly increased the need for Auxiliary volunteers in and around the waterways.

UNIFORMS:

Coast Guard Auxiliarists wear basically the same uniform as active duty Coast Guard officers wear, except for the office/rank insignia. Active duty and Reserve officers wear gold stripes on their shoulder boards; Coast Guard Auxiliarists wear silver stripes on their shoulder boards. Coast Guard Auxiliarists do not have rank, per se, but, rather, hold both elected and appointed offices. The office insignia is similar to that of the active duty officer rank practically in every respect, except for the difference of silver vs. gold. Coast Guard Auxiliarists are authorized to wear all ribbons and medals earned while on active duty with other branches of the military and are entitled to shop in any Coast Guard Base Exchange.

EACH YEAR COAST GUARD AUXILIARISTS:

Save almost 400 lives * Fly 2,000 air patrols * Operate over 2,300 radio stations * Assist over 11,000 boaters in distress * Conduct 25,000 safety patrols * Perform almost 100,00 vessel safety checks * Educate over 500,000 students in boating safety classes * Train 45,000 hours to develop personal skills

For information and a free booklet, call the **Coast Guard Customer Infoline** at **1-800-368-5647** or visit the **Coast Guard Auxiliary** online at <http://www.cgaux.org>.